

Our response to pre-planning application consultation for the Parliamentary Northern Estate – 19th June 2019

We understand the rationale for the work. Since the interior of the block will remain closed to the public our principal concern is for those places where there is an interface with the public realm. All the entrances, whether in use or not, should allow a view into the area and improve the visual appearance. At the moment solid gates are in place at unused entrances and they are ugly and forbidding.

The intervention along Whitehall of high railings, which will be permanent, and the temporary visitor centre building at the entrance to Richmond House, will seriously reduce the view of Richmond House, one of the most interesting modern buildings in the area. The railings will also be at odds with their normal use, which is as protection around 'areas', in the way they are used now along the southern section of the block. We question whether these buildings cannot be made safe without such an intrusive measure as 3m high fences.